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AGRICULTURE MECHANIC ARTS GENERAL INTELLIGENCE

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Our Home, our Country, our Brother Man.

Culture of Strawberries.

We are so abundantly blessed in Maine with the strawberry in our fields, that there is not much attention paid to their culture. Occasionally we find a bed in some of the gardens in the villages, but our farmers seldom trouble their heads about the culture of them—preferring to let nature do that business for them, and to let the children have a free run for them during the short season of their maturity, even at the risk of having their moving fields pretty well tangled in consequence.

A bed or two of this delicious fruit would nevertheless be a convenient appendage to a farmer's garden, "away out in the country," even if his fields were full of them. Like every thing else, they grow larger and better when properly cultivated than when growing wild.

As this is the time for preparing beds for transplanting them, it may not be amiss to bring the subject to your notice. The nursery men have a great variety of sorts which will be recommended to you, but in reality two or three varieties are enough. For an early kind, say the Early Virginia; and for later and larger kinds, you want Hovey's Seedling, and Hovey's Boston Pine. These were both first obtained from seeds sown by the Messrs. Hovey, of Boston, and are very fine varieties. For late strawberries, the Alpines, either the white or red, or both, are recommended.

For the bed, you should have a soil a little inclining to moisture, and make it as rich as you please, to the depth of eighteen inches. Then take the young roots and set them in rows two and a half or three feet apart, and a foot from each other in the rows. A friend of ours once had a very good bed which he managed in this way: After making his bed he boxed it in with planks set up edgewise, and also divided it into rows by setting down planks even with the surface, a foot apart. He then set his roots in every other row, leaving the vacant rows for paths for one season. After the roots thus set out had borne fruit the ensuing year, he trained the runners over into the vacant paths and let them take root there, and when this had been done, cut them off from the parent root, which he grubbed up, using their space for paths, and thus alternating.

We have recommended Hovey's Seedlings for culture, and we would here copy the following hints from Hovey's Magazine, being the substance of remarks made by that gentleman during the discussion of gentlemen on the subject of strawberries, at the last Congress of Fruit Growers.

Mr. Hovey said he would embrace this opportunity to say a few words in regard to the cultivation of the Boston Pine. One gentleman had remarked that he cultivated his vines in hills; another, in beds; others, in rows—and all had succeeded equally well. But as one gentleman had said that he did not exactly understand what was meant by cultivating in hills, he would briefly explain. Gentlemen were probably aware that Hovey's Seedling, the Early Virginia, and other varieties, rarely produced more than three or four trusses of fruit, and then when grown thickly in beds produced very good crops. This, however, was not the case with the Boston Pine, generally—the constitutional tendency of the plant being to produce ten or twelve trusses to each root. The consequence was, that when the vines occupied all the ground, there was a deficiency of nourishment, and the berries did not fill up. Hence had arisen many failures in the cultivation of this variety.

It required more room than other strawberries, and when grown in rows, with a space of a foot or more between, and that space well manured, the crop was one of the most abundant of all kinds.

Cultivation in hills, so termed, was when one or more plants were set out two or more feet apart each way, the runners kept clipped off, and the ground tilled with the hoe, or when extensively grown, with the cultivator or hoe.

Our readers will perceive that he recommends this method only for the Boston Pine. Those who intend to cultivate the strawberry should get about it this month. If set out now, the roots get a good growth before winter, and will be ready for fruiting next spring.

Insurance of Live Stock.

This species of insurance is well worth the consideration of farmers—at any rate those who have choice animals, the loss of which will involve more money than farmers would like to lose. In answer to some queries put to a friend in regard to the ability of the Company to meet their engagements, we have received the following information:

Hon. Henry Clay has written a letter certifying to the ample ability of the American Live Stock Insurance Company, whose advertisement will be found in another column of our paper, and to the integrity and high character of the Trustees of that Company. Those who desire to provide against loss of their horses, neat cattle and sheep, may therefore have entire confidence that this Company are able and will promptly pay the risks taken by them. In some parts of the country we believe this kind of insurance is quite common, and we cannot doubt but gradually the practice will obtain in this vicinity.

Information may be obtained as to the principles and terms of this Company, by applying to its agent, James L. Child, Esq., of Augusta, or to Dr. David Folson, the person appointed by the Company to examine animals offered for insurance. Blanks have been received by the agent, and he is fully prepared to attend to any call for insurance that shall be made upon him.

Heavy Fleeces.

It is reasonable to conclude that a full supply of food to sheep will cause good fleeces. Every wool-grower, however, knows that there is a vast difference, even in the same breed of sheep, in the yield of wool. In Vermont and New York, the spirit roused by S. W. Jewett's success in obtaining heavy fleeces from his Merinos, still continues, and has led not only to the improvement of flocks at home, but also the importation of improved Merinos, of larger size, and bearing heavier fleeces than the ordinary kinds among us.

We find statements of some heavy fleeces taken off this year, in several of our exchanges. Reed Burritt, of Burdett, N. Y., writing to the Genesee Farmer upon this subject, states that Mr. C. Van Horn, of Cooperstown, sheared 84½ lbs. of wool from fourteen sheep, twelve of them being ewes, ten of which had lambs; two were yearling bucks that gave 17½ lbs.; that five of the number were full blood Merinos, and the others were crossed with the English breed. They were all well washed, and perfectly dry when shorn.

Mr. Burritt then states that he keeps three hundred sheep, that he sheared them on the first week in June, and from two bucks that were three years old, and twelve ewes, all full blooded Merinos, he sheared 84½ lbs. of wool. Seven of the ewes had lambs by their sides,—the other five were yearling ewes, that of course had no lambs. The fleeces of the two bucks weighed just 20 lbs.—one weighed 10 lbs. 11 oz., and the other 9 lbs. 5 oz.—all well washed and dry when shorn.

We have sheep in Maine that come up to this. Our neighbors, Joseph and Lewis Wood, sheared a buck this season that gave over ten pounds of well washed, dry wool. He was a descendant from Mr. Jewett's famous Pauler Merino, "Fortune."

Vegetative Power of Seeds.

We have been informed by Mr. Locke, of Mt. Vernon, of a singular fact in regard to the vegetative powers of wheat, under circumstances new to us. Some years ago, during a warm, wet time, just as his wheat (spring wheat) was ripening, he found that much of it had sprouted. He harvested and thrashed it. Wishing to ascertain the fact whether it would germinate again, or whether it had been ruined for seed as well as injured for bread, he counted out forty kernels, and placed them in earth in a warm situation. They all came up. He separated the sprouted wheat from the other, and laid it away in his granary until the ensuing spring, when he sowed it and it obtained a good crop. It seems that its sprouting in the ear did not exhaust its germinating powers.

A Hint about Black Raspberries.

Nineteen years ago we furnished Dr. Drew, of the Banner, with a small quantity of roots of the black raspberry, or thimbleberry, as they are often called. They were taken from the banks of the Sandy River in Starks, where we then lived. The other day, being at his house, we were regaled with a plateful of fine berries of this kind, which he informed us were the product of those that he had supplied him with, so long ago. He has had them in abundance ever since. We found by further conversation with him that he adopts the method of transplanting them every spring. It is a sort of biennial—the young shoots of this year bearing fruit the next, while the shoots that bear this year die after maturing their shoots.

By transplanting or removing the renewing roots every spring, in good soil, he has been enabled to have beautiful crops every year. This is one of the most pleasant fruits of the kind, and should find a place in every garden.

Kennebec Grain.

We called at the farm of Mr. Jabez Churchill, of Augusta, the other day, and found him busily engaged in harvesting fourteen and one-half acres of winter wheat, and three and one-half acres of winter wheat; and better grain, or a more bountiful yield, is not often obtained, even in the best grain growing districts of the West. The unfavorable weather of week before last turned the straw a little, but the grain itself is not injured.

Mr. Churchill has three varieties of winter wheat, all of which stood the winter well, and have produced grain of an excellent quality. The varieties are the Blue-stem Kloss or Banner wheat; the Poland wheat, introduced by J. D. Long, Esq., and cultivated by Moses Taber; and a variety of Genesee wheat, which was procured by Mr. Whittier, of Hallowell, who selected it for the purpose of grinding. Not more than half of the latter vegetated, from some cause or other; but what did grow spread well, and will probably yield a fair crop. These are all good varieties, and may be well adapted for general cultivation in this State, but Mr. Churchill, from what he has seen of them, thinks most favorably of the Blue-stem Kloss or Banner wheat.

ENEMIES OF THE WHEAT CROP. Professor Agassiz says that there have been collected in Europe 27,000 species of insects that preyed upon wheat. If they were all as destructive as the "weevil" has been with us, this grain would become wholly annihilated.

Remedy for Diseased Swine.

A few years since, I had a sow with a litter of pigs, one or two days old, taken suddenly sick. When first discovered, she was lying on her side, and would neither eat nor take any notice of her pigs, even when disturbed. I had no expectation of her living one hour, and being no doctor, knew not what to do for her; but having a little cotton oil in the house, (the quantity I do not know precisely, as it was nearly all used, except what adhered to the vis, perhaps three or four drops or more.) I mixed it with milk, rolled her on her back, and poured it into her mouth. In two hours, she was as well as ever. I have given the same kind of oil to hogs that were sick since that time, and believe they have, in all cases, recovered, but in no case with so marked effect, as in the above.

SULLYER ESKOWN.

Hallowell, Ct., June, 1850.

[American Agriculturist.]

Written for the Maine Farmer.

Corn and Beans—Queries.

MR. EDITOR:—As shooting at a mark is pleasanter than firing at random, I suppose editors of agricultural papers do not object to questions being propounded by their subscribers, as often as they have occasion, provided the said questions concern proper subjects, and are not too difficult. Under this impression, I take the liberty to address to you the following, to the first of which I should be glad to receive an answer in your next number.

If our common Indian corn and Sweet corn be planted in alternate rows, to what extent will they mix, and if the spindles of one kind be cut off, will the effect be to make all the corn of that kind where the spindles remain, or what will be the effect upon the corn thus treated? (1.) The season being backward, I planted potatoes, sweet corn and Indian corn, alternately, thinking the latter more likely to mature by this plan, as the potato vines offer little obstruction to the light and air, and the sweet corn would be removed as soon as it should be fit for the table.

Supposing the drills to be four feet apart, how thick may the stalks be suffered to remain, and is the same rule applicable to the two kinds of corn? (2.)

I believe it is a common practice to plant beans with corn. Are the beans so planted less injurious to the corn than the same number of weeds would be, and if this be true, and yet the practice is justifiable on the ground that the grain in beans is greater than the loss in corn, how thick may the beans be planted? (3.) In my own field, the beans cover a large part of the ground in the rows, and the stalks of corn average perhaps two to every lineal foot, which I fear is too thick; but as they both appear stout and vigorous, (except on the borders of the beds where the soil is thin), and to be well satisfied with each other's company, I feel a great reluctance to rooting them out.

Have any facts come to your knowledge, going to prove somebody's theory, that potatoes planted in alternate rows with corn are less liable to rot? (4.)

Is it not a self-evident proposition, that under this method of planting, the corn may stand closer together than where all the rows are corn, and thus a greater yield be obtained from the same ground, than if planted each by itself? (5.)

An answer to the above will perhaps be of interest to many of your readers; and if they say, "I knew all that before," so did not at least one of your SUBSCRIBERS.

Portland, July 29, 1850.

NOTES. 1. It is impossible to tell "to what extent" they will mix. They will mix pretty intimately together, and even if the spindles of one variety be cut off, we have no doubt there will be a pretty thorough mixture. This is proved by the experiments of Horticulturists and florists in the manufacture of hybrids of fruits and flowers. They carefully cut off the stamens in the flowers of one kind, and impregnate the pistils with pollen from another. The spindles of the corn are the stamens of the corn, and the "silks" are the pistils. In this mixing of corn, you will find that even kernels, all of appearance of one kind, will nevertheless have some qualities of other kinds in them, and which will show themselves at some future time, if planted. Some years since we had sweet corn and Tuscarora corn growing together. The result was a mixture of sweet corn and the large Tuscarora corn on one cob. Next year we selected the shriveled kernels of the sweet corn, and planted them. There was no Tuscarora corn harvested on the farm, not any where near it; yet on plantings, there were Tuscarora kernels on the cobs of all of it. It took us three years, selecting and planting the sweet kernels, before the Tuscarora was wholly eradicated. We suppose these two varieties would mix more intimately on account of their being in blossom at the same time.

2. This must depend altogether on the richness of the soil, size of the variety of corn, &c. We have seen excellent corn matured on strong soils in rows four feet apart, and the corn one foot apart, only, in the row. The old rule used to be, four feet one way and three feet the other.

3. The beans will be as exhausting to the corn as weeds would be that required the same elements or material for their growth and maturity as do the beans. Some weeds, as the common Roman wormwood, (sometimes called Bitterweed or Ragweed,) and also the Pigweed, mature a seed, which, though very small, nevertheless contains as much farinaceous matter, in proportion to their size, as corn does. Hence they exhaust in the same proportion as corn, and thus injure corn. Beans, although they rob corn, take up elements which are not found in corn; and hence they do not seem to be as injurious as some weeds. When the corn is three feet apart, a hill of beans between each hill of corn will do very well.

4. Several of our acquaintances have tried this experiment, and do not see any difference.

5. The theory looks plausible. It will require a series of comparative experiments to test it.

Written for the Maine Farmer.

Cultivation of Winter Wheat.

DR. HOLMES:—Once more I wish to call the attention of the farmers of this State to the importance of raising winter wheat, believing as I now do that it may be grown to better advantage than spring wheat ever has been. I ground my opinion on the fact that when a proper method of cultivation has been pursued, the average crop for six years past, has been about twenty bushels to the bushel of seed sown, and in no instance a failure, or less than fifteen bushels per acre. But once has the rust injured it at all, and then but slightly; smut, now, and weevils never, unless very late sown, (late in 10th mo.)

The variety I saw was imported from Poland, latitude north of us, and whether it is harder than other sorts sown hereabouts, I know not; never having sown any other; but this has stood hard frozing as well as English grass along side of it, as I had a fair experiment in the winter of 1848-9. My wheat was on a ridge of land, exposed to the winds from all quarters. Nearly all winter a portion of the ground was bare of snow. In the spring, the plants above ground were as dead and dry as old stubble, but a few warm days brought up green blades that

produced fine wheat. I have raised this wheat on all the varieties of dry soil commonly cultivated in this State—upon old plowed ground, green sward, and clover sod, turned over after a hay crop was taken off, and with light dressings of compost, leached ashes, lime, and tannin, straw manure from the stable. The compost gave the best crop.

Our present crop is ready for the sickle, and it is judged that it will produce twenty-five bushels to the acre. It is growing on clover sod, plowed soon after the hay was taken off last summer. One-half the lot had twenty single horse-cart loads of compost to the acre; the other half had none. The seed was sown the 25th of 8th mo., one bushel per acre, and covered about two or three inches with a light single horse-plow, (the plow being gauged to keep it from going deeper,) and rolled with a large single horse roller. This land has been manured but moderately for many years, consequently the growth of wheat is not so large as some I have seen the present season. Had the clover been plowed under in the 6th month, no doubt the crop would have been increased many bushels.

The time of sowing depends much on the state of the land. If green sward, or land lightly manured, from the 10th to the 25th of the 8th month, is the desirable time, though I would not discourage sowing it later, if it cannot otherwise be done. On land in high cultivation, it may safely be sown till the 20th of the 9th mo. I have known thirty bushels to be raised to the acre on land where corn had been raised the same year the wheat was sown, and taken off about the 18th.

The object of early sowing is that the grain may get deep root, ripen early, and thereby escape the weevil; and also that the surface of the ground may be well covered in autumn, to protect it against hard freezing. If a large growth is obtained in autumn, turn on calves and sheep to feed it, otherwise there is danger of its falling so thick as to moulder, and nearly stifle the plants. A friend of mine lost half his crop in this way last year.

On mellow, rich soil, one bushel of seed is quite sufficient for an acre; on weaker land, two to four quarts more are required.

If any portion of these hastily written, desultory remarks are worth spreading before the readers of the Farmer, then art at liberty to so do; and if a few farmers thereby may be induced to give their attention to the growing of winter wheat, we shall be fully remunerated. I would adopt the sentiment of a good citizen-farmer, who came to buy buckwheat for sowing: "Although I shall not from this seed grow grain that will make superfine wheat flour, I hope to get a tolerable substitute, saving a few dollars that would otherwise go to purchase Western flour, and thereby do the State some service."

I am truly thy friend, M. TABER.

Vassalboro', 8th mo. 2d, 1850.

Written for the Maine Farmer.

Winter Wheat.

MR. EDITOR:—The importance to Maine of the cultivation of winter wheat, has never been rightly understood. I am happy, however, to see an increasing attention paid to this subject, which is fast opening the eyes of the people to their true interest. The success that has attended its cultivation in Massachusetts, as well as in this State, should induce every farmer to try an experiment upon a small scale, and we should soon ascertain the best method of cultivating it with profit. The advantage of raising it, over spring wheat, must be obvious to every one: the grain is worth a third more for flouring, and it usually escapes the rust and weevil, which have proved so destructive of late to spring wheat. Another advantage is, that the work of sowing is done at a time which saves so much from the hurry and haste of spring seed-time, which in this State is very short.

The best time for sowing is probably from the 20th to the last of August, and perhaps the best method is to plow it in, or sow it on the furrow and harrow lengthwise, and roll the ground in either case. In this way the seed will be covered from two to four inches deep, and the roots will thus be protected from the spring frosts, which are often very destructive, where the roots have not sufficient depth of soil to protect them from the heaving process of freezing and thawing. The success upon what is called burnt land is quite uniform, but this is of little consequence compared to its cultivation with the plow. It has sometimes done well when sown as late as October, but is more liable to fail than when sown early. He who shall discover a successful method of raising winter wheat in this State, will be a benefactor to his race, and deserve a pension for life. If the amount of money sent to this State for the article of flour in a single year was ascertained and made public, it would astonish every one, and induce a general effort to find a remedy for so great an evil.

Penobscot.

Written for the Maine Farmer.

Letter from Piscataquis County.

FRIEND EATON:—As I am an "Eastern" man now, of course I am espoused to "Eastern" interests and have sympathy with "Eastern" property; which can be done, however, without a prejudice against any other section of the State. I have not long been a dweller in these parts, but yet feel a desire to make some report, for your valuable journal, of what I have seen while traveling up and down the banks of the Piscataquis.

This County is one that need not shrink from a just comparison with any other in the State: not that, at the present moment, it is as well cultivated, as much improved as some others, but I refer to its natural capabilities, its prospective character, in reference to Agriculture, Education, Virtue and generally diffused prosperity.

The soil here is productive, and the man who tills it a right, finds his reward. It is no complaint to its country, however soft and salubrious its atmosphere, however great its facilities for business, to say its soil is sufficiently rich and deep, to support a community without labor. Labor is the law of life. It is not only the price of wealth, but the price that must be paid for virtue and happiness. It was not a curse but a blessing pronounced upon man by his Maker, when he told him that by the sweat of his brow he should earn his daily bread. The man, then,

who would prosper in Piscataquis as a farmer, need not think to thrive unless he hold the plow or drive. And there are hundreds, in this section, who thus are enjoying an honorable prosperity.

I believe that generally the soil is not very "rocky," but easy to be tilled. There is some very rich intervals on the river—quite equal to anything on Sandy river.

The crops this season look promising. There is a great deal of grain growing; and it is as handsome as anything can be coming out of the ground. A few calamities befall the grain, there must be a great harvest in autumn. Grass is better than it was last year. Old fields, however, do not produce much, as they are yet suffering from the drought of last season. New fields do well; and there must be a fair crop of hay in the County. Some fields, I have seen, will yield or have yielded over two tons to the acre.

The corn and potato fields look finely. A few days since I went through a piece of corn on intervals land, about seven or eight acres in the piece. Some of it was higher than my head—and I am quite a tall man, standing about six feet, without having on high leaved boots.

In respect of orcharding, Kennebec goes ahead of Piscataquis; and there is good reason therefore. But there are some large orchards in this vicinity. Not much pains have been taken, until of late, in improving the character of fruit, but attention is now turning in that direction. Mr. Calvin Chamberlain and brother, who reside in this County, have been doing a good work for the fruit cause, within a few years. There are many young orchards in different parts of the County.

Some of the farms I have seen here are quite as good as those west of the Kennebec—large, some too large—well fenced with cedar, well managed, with large stocks of cattle, good buildings, with honest, enterprising men at the head. I would like to speak of "Mineral resources," "Cattle," "Roads," "School houses," and "Education," "Character of the people," and the like, in Piscataquis; but this must suffice for the present.

W. A. P. D.

Doer, Me., August 1, 1850.

The Potato Curculio.

I beg leave to call the attention of the farmers of our country to a few facts, which I trust will not be uninteresting to them, as, on the authority of Dr. T. W. Harris of Harvard University, they are now presented as new and important. I allude to the hitherto unknown habits of a small beetle, (*Curculio trinitatus*, Say,) which feeds on the inside of the potato stem, causing the plant to wither and giving the field the appearance of having been scalded.

In August, 1849, my attention was called to the subject by Mr. Wilkinson, principal of the Mount Airy Agricultural Institute, who discovered small grubs in the potato vines, on his farm and naturally feared injurious consequences. On pursuing the subject, I had the gratification of following them through their various transformations, and with the assistance of my friends, have traced their ravages from Mexico to Maine.

The female deposits her eggs on the leaf buds of the potato vine, at the foot stalk of a leaf, from six to eighteen inches above the ground: they are of a bright-red color—from one to three deposited on a stem, and never more than one on a bud. When the grubs are first hatched, they are bright red, but soon change to a pale straw color; then soon penetrate the bud, and eat into the stem, where they feed, their path being always downward. When fully grown, they construct their cocoons of the inside fibre of the vines forming a cavity from a foot above the ground, to the termination of the root. When the insects have changed to pupae, the vines decay at the roots, and the tops appear as if scalded.

They remain from 14 to 20 days in the pupa state, when they cast their skins, and change to a small, dusky, black beetle, a little more than an eighth of an inch in length, having the wing covers bordered by a narrow black band, and three black dots on the upper margin, near the thorax. In many of the fields in this neighborhood, every stem was infested by these insects, causing the premature decay of the vines, and consequently preventing the tubers from growing to their full size, and on passing a knife through the potatoes grown on these sickly vines, a watery sap was always found in middle, and a streak from this spot to the root on which it grew.

Specimens of the *Baridius vestitus*, found in this neighborhood, have been sent to Dr. T. W. Harris, of Cambridge, and Mr. T. C. Westwood, of England, who agree in opinion that they cannot be the cause of the scourge so well known as the "potato rot," as this species is strictly American, "but," says Westwood, "that they are capable of committing great injury on a crop of potatoes, cannot be doubted." If so, it is the duty of every observer to make known any additional facts that may fall under his observation. For it is only by such efforts that questions of this nature can be relieved from embarrassment.

The potato rot is an epidemic, sent, like the cholera, by an All-wise Hand, to be withdrawn at his good pleasure, is, I believe generally acknowledged; yet, like the cholera, may it not be checked and restrained by timely care, and the removal of exciting causes, and if these insects be not the origin, may they not be the exciting cause of the rot in many instances; and will not their existence in some fields and not in those adjoining, account for many facts that have puzzled potato growers throughout the broad land?

An additional fact may strengthen this opinion. In the summer of 1849, a large field near Camden, New Jersey, was planted with both early and late potatoes, the interval of time between the plantings, my informant stated, was two weeks, consequently, the early plants were above ground some time before the late ones; all the early plants were attacked by the baridius, and not one found in the late planting; while in a garden, in Germantown, the late planting alone suffered.

Does not the question then naturally present itself, is not the baridius the cause of that kind of rot which many farmers assert is prevented by mowing off the tops of the potato vines?

M. H. MORRIS.

Germantown, Pa. [Am. Agriculturist.]

Indian Corn—Effect of Change of Climate, &c.

MR. EDITOR:—In the January number of the Genesee Farmer, I saw a notice of some remarkable specimens of Indian Corn, exhibited in the city of Baltimore. These specimens consisted of four stalks, eleven feet in height, and bearing eighteen large and well-filled ears.

Were I about to relate the simple circumstance of my having seen an extraordinary specimen of corn, or any other crop of common growth in our country, unaccompanied with any other fact, which might interest your readers, I might deny myself that gratification. But, as improvement is the watchword of the present age, each and every individual is called upon to contribute his mite to the contents of the vast storehouse of knowledge.

In the year 1844, being then a resident of Mississippi, I witnessed the planting, growth and maturity in the interior of that State, of a few hills of the northern yellow flint corn, taken from the granite hills of Maine, and transferred immediately to that southern climate. It was planted in a garden of tolerable richness of soil, about the first of March, I think, which is the usual season for planting in that portion of the country. It germinated and came forth rapidly, and when the tassels appeared, the stalks were not more than two feet in height; and when the latter were two and a half or three feet high, the corn was matured, and in about the same time which is usually required to mature the same crop in the northern part of New England, viz. a little more than three months, while the native corn required from six to eight months. The ears, as you may well suppose, were small, and scarcely deserved the name of corn. Perhaps you may, by this time, think I am attempting to draw a contrast between the big corn, of which your contemporaries speak, and the dwarf corn of Mississippi. Such was not my intention, when I commenced this article; but to show the effect produced upon the growth of corn by a change of climate. You may say that I have failed to do so; but, bear the sequel, and then judge whether or not I have accomplished my purpose.

In the summer of 1847 I saw planted, grown and matured, some of the produce of that same New England corn, upon nearly the same spot where it was planted in 1844, having had an acclimation of three years; and was astonished to see grown from the produce of that shrub-like plant, corn of a monstrous size, even far that climate. One stalk, which I noticed particularly, was, to the best of my recollection, more than twelve feet in height, and supported seven large and well-filled ears, the uppermost of which was entirely beyond the reach of any six feet Kentuckian. But, this is only one of the ten thousand experiments which have been tried, not only upon this, but various other crops; and with the same result, as far as my knowledge extends.

While speaking of large corn, I am reminded of another fact which I will here mention. I noticed, while riding through a cornfield, in the State of Mississippi, a few years since, a stalk of corn which reared its tassels five feet above my reach, when standing upon the top of my saddle upon the back of a lofty horse. Your readers may be enabled to judge of the height of that corn, when to the height of the horse [say 16 hands] they add the thickness of a heavy Spanish saddle; my own height, which is near six feet; the distance I could reach above my head and, perhaps six inches above the tips of my fingers. I shall say no more about big corn, until the Genesee Farmer tries again. S. LORRAINE.

Greenbush, June, 1850.

[Wisconsin and Iowa Farmer.]

Starch from Indian Corn.

Many of our readers are not aware of the extent of this new branch of manufacture, which we hope soon to see take the place of whiskey distilleries in the consumption of our great American staple, Indian corn. There is now in operation, at Oswego, New York, a manufactory that consumes 2,000 bushels of corn a week, which makes 40,000 lbs. of the whitest and most beautiful starch for all domestic purposes, whether for the laundry or pantry. The building is 130 by 100 feet, five stories high, (to which an addition is about being erected,) and contains 200 cisterns for precipitating the starch, eleven furnaces with drying rooms, and employs about 70 men, and manufactures upwards of \$120,000 worth of starch, annually. There are two other similar establishments in the United States, and yet the demand is constantly increasing.

It is found that this kind of starch is superior to any other for culinary purposes, because it is always made from clean, sweet corn, the gluten of which is separated by a peculiar process of grinding and washing, the corn being first steeped in a chemical liquid, then reduced to pulp, sifted, and filtered, and passed into huge cisterns, whence it flows through long, narrow troughs, draining off the water through coarse cotton cloths. In twelve hours, the starch becomes liquid clay, capable of being handled, and dried, a process that requires much care and a powerful heat. The residue of the corn is used for feeding hogs and other domestic animals.

This is a new use of Indian corn, but one, we hope, that will prove profitable to the manufacturer, and induce a very large consumption of this grain and thereby increase the price to the grower. We should like to have some statistics of the other corn starch manufactory in the country for the purpose of noting them as being intimately connected with the interest of the agricultural community, and the object of our journal. [American Agriculturist.]

Early Bearing of Fruit-Trees.

MR. COLE:—I have seen an inquiry in your paper of June 22, whether large fruit-trees, when grafted, will bear fruit sooner than when scions are taken from bearing trees; when taken from young trees. I have followed the grafting business for the last fifteen years, excepting the past one, setting from 3000 to 4000 scions each season, and am always trying experiments. I have found that scions taken from an old bearing tree, will bear fruit in less than half of the time that they will taken from very young and thrifty trees and much sooner than they will from a medium-aged tree. I grafted some young apple-trees with the Porter apple, eight years ago, and a part of the scions I took from an old tree, and a part of them from

very young and thrifty trees. Those that I took from the old tree have borne three years; the others have borne on them this year for the first time. Many other similar circumstances could be mentioned. I have upwards of one hundred varieties of pears, and nearly or quite as many apples, and I have tried many ways to bring them to bearing as soon as possible, but have not, as yet, found any way that I could get fruit as soon as to graft them onto a tree that had come to maturity. Therefore I have no hesitation in saying that, with my experience, scions taken from an old tree and set in a young tree will bear much sooner than others; and scions taken from a young tree and put in an old tree will bear much sooner than on their own stock. L. BURT.

Wolpole, N. H., July 15, 1850.

REMARKS. We should be pleased to learn the result of other experiments on this subject, as other persons have come to a different conclusion from that of our correspondent. Here is an important point for consideration. A scion is taken from an old bearing tree, and set in a small stock near the ground, and in the summer of the same season the shoot from that scion is used for budding, with other shoots from the tree that the other scion was taken from. Now, will that scion, from its being only a few months on that young stock, lose its disposition to bear to as great a degree as though it had remained several years before it was used for budding? [New England Farmer.]

Proposed Remedy for Stealing Fruit.

